

I CLAIM,

1. A nipple for connection to an outer metal casing of a hot water heater for coupling a water conduit to an inner casing of said hot water heater, said nipple being a hollow tube having opposed threaded end portions, and a thermally insulating sleeve about said hollow tube intermediate said opposed threaded end portions, said nipple being adapted for connection in a hole formed in said outer metal casing with said thermally insulating sleeve in contact with a circumferential edge of said hole to insulate said metal casing from said nipple.
2. A nipple as claimed in claim 1 wherein said thermally insulating sleeve is a plastic shroud secured about said nipple.
3. A nipple as claimed in claim 1 wherein said thermally insulating sleeve is a plastic coupling.
4. A nipple as claimed in claim 3 wherein said coupling has a tubular body portion secured in press-fit about said hollow tube, and a transverse circumferential flange about a top end of said tubular body portion to overlies an outer surface of said outer metal casing about said hole.
5. A nipple as claimed in claim 4 wherein said plastic coupling is moulded from polyethylene plastic material.
6. A nipple as claimed in claim 2 wherein said plastic shroud is secured to said hollow tube by heat shrink.
7. A nipple as claimed in claim 1 wherein there are two of said nipples secured to a top wall of said outer metal casing, one of said nipples being connected to an inlet water conduit and the other to an outlet water conduit.